

E AND R AMENDMENTS TO LB 633

Introduced by Enrollment and Review Committee: Nordquist, 7,  
Chairperson

1           1. Strike the original sections and all amendments  
2 thereto and insert the following new sections:

3           Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
4 the Neighborhood Development Act.

5           Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that there is a need to:

6           (1) Stimulate local community development efforts  
7 statewide;

8           (2) Build an environment to engage in more effective  
9 community development; and

10          (3) Assist community improvement groups which have  
11 positive impacts upon the vitality, cohesiveness, and continued  
12 viability of both urban and rural communities throughout the state.

13          Sec. 3. The purposes of the Neighborhood Development Act  
14 are to:

15          (1) Strengthen neighborhoods and small communities by  
16 enhancing their ability to develop community development plans;

17          (2) Coordinate the use of existing programs and funds  
18 more efficiently and effectively in support of new programs and  
19 initiatives; and

20          (3) Revitalize declining neighborhoods and small  
21 communities, maintain the integrity of stable, viable neighborhoods  
22 and small communities, and strengthen existing neighborhoods and  
23 small communities.

1           Sec. 4. For purposes of the Neighborhood Development Act:

2           (1) College means the College of Public Affairs and  
3 Community Service of the University of Nebraska at Omaha;

4           (2) Community improvement group means a neighborhood  
5 association or small community;

6           (3) Fund means the Neighborhood Development Grant Fund;

7           (4) Neighborhood association means an organization that  
8 is recognized or endorsed by an incorporated city or village or  
9 county as representing all of the residents within a specific,  
10 defined geographical area, with the organization representing those  
11 residents on a wide range of issues through an open meeting process  
12 with elected officers and regularly scheduled meetings; and

13           (5) Small community means an unincorporated village or  
14 an incorporated city of the second class or village as defined in  
15 sections 17-101 and 17-201.

16           Sec. 5. (1) The Neighborhood Development Grant Fund is  
17 created. The fund shall be used by the college to carry out its  
18 duties and responsibilities under the Neighborhood Development Act.  
19 It is the intent of the Legislature that one hundred twenty-five  
20 thousand dollars be appropriated to the fund for FY2009-10 and each  
21 of the following fiscal years through FY2012-13.

22           (2) The State Treasurer shall credit to the fund any  
23 money (a) appropriated to the fund by the Legislature, (b) donated  
24 as gifts, bequests, grants, or otherwise contributed to the fund  
25 from public or private sources, and (c) received pursuant to this  
26 section. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be  
27 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska

1 Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

2           Sec. 6. (1) The college shall award development grants  
3 to qualified community improvement groups through an application  
4 process. The college shall develop and provide requesting community  
5 improvement groups with an application form. The form shall be  
6 simple and concise, using nontechnical language, and the questions  
7 on the form shall be factual in nature.

8           (2) To be eligible for a grant, the applying community  
9 improvement group shall:

10           (a) Demonstrate that the grant funds will be used for a  
11 neighborhood or community project;

12           (b) Demonstrate with regard to the project:

13           (i) That it will provide a public benefit;

14           (ii) That it will provide a particular benefit to the  
15 applicant's neighborhood or small community;

16           (iii) That it will be completed within one year after  
17 receipt of the grant;

18           (iv) That neighborhood or small community residents were  
19 involved in the identification and planning for the project and  
20 will be involved in the project's execution; and

21           (v) That the project does not duplicate an existing  
22 public program;

23           (c) Document verifiable goals for the project for which  
24 grant funds are requested; and

25           (d) Document that the applicant will bring to the project  
26 a match equivalent in money or in-kind services equal to the  
27 following:

1           (i) For a grant of five thousand dollars or less, a match  
2 equivalent to at least twenty-five percent of the amount of the  
3 grant sought;

4           (ii) For a grant of seven thousand five hundred dollars  
5 or less but more than five thousand dollars, a match equivalent to  
6 at least twenty-six percent and no more than forty-nine percent of  
7 the amount of the grant sought; and

8           (iii) For a grant of ten thousand dollars or less but  
9 more than seven thousand five hundred dollars, a match equivalent  
10 to fifty percent or more of the amount of the grant sought.

11           (3) A recipient of a grant shall not use the grant  
12 funds for administrative support of the recipient, for the planning  
13 of a project, or for the administrative costs relating to the  
14 planning of a project. Not more than five percent of the grant  
15 funds received shall be expended by the recipient of the grant  
16 for expenses incurred in administering the grant. A recipient of  
17 a grant may not receive more than one grant for the same project,  
18 and a project may not receive more than one grant in any one year.  
19 No grant to a single community improvement group shall exceed ten  
20 thousand dollars.

21           Sec. 7. In assessing the applications received from  
22 community improvement groups, the college shall weigh the relative  
23 merits of the applications, giving consideration to the following  
24 factors:

25           (1) The amount of the match;

26           (2) The level of involvement by persons living in the  
27 community;

1           (3) The community needs that are reflected in the  
2 application;

3           (4) The likelihood of the successful completion of the  
4 project;

5           (5) The innovative character of the proposed solution;  
6 and

7           (6) The efficiency of the proposed allocation of state,  
8 local, public, and private resources in solving the local community  
9 needs.

10           Sec. 8. Upon completion of a project for which a grant  
11 has been received or within one year from the date of receipt of  
12 a grant, whichever comes first, the recipient community improvement  
13 group shall provide the college with an evaluation reporting the  
14 results of the project.

15           Sec. 9. The college shall submit an annual report to the  
16 Governor and the Legislature on or before January 1 of each year  
17 listing the recipients and amounts of grants made pursuant to the  
18 Neighborhood Development Act in the previous year, the impact of  
19 the grants, and an evaluation of each project's performance based  
20 on the documented reports of the recipient community improvement  
21 groups.

22           Sec. 10. The Neighborhood Development Act terminates on  
23 June 30, 2013.

24           2. On page 1, line 2, strike "and"; and in line 3 after  
25 "duties" insert "; and to provide a termination date".